

From: Dellinger, Philip
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 8:18 AM
To: R6 6WQ-SG
Subject: FW: Azle, Reno mayors make case for link between earthquakes, injection wells and fracking

From: Casso, Ruben
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 7:55 AM
To: Lawrence, Rob; Dellinger, Philip
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Azle, Reno mayors make case for link between earthquakes, injection wells and fracking

File photo

North Texas has experienced earthquakes some people blame on hydraulic fracturing.

- Dallas Business Journal

Mayors from Azle and [Reno](#) testified Monday afternoon in Austin about the earthquakes that plagued their cities for several months, saying they want answers for their residents.

The hearing was the first meeting of the [Texas House Subcommittee on Seismic Activity led by Rep. Myra Crowover, R-Denton.](#)

The mayors spoke before the seismologists from Southern Methodist University and other universities across the state. The question is whether briny frack water and produced water that's injected into disposal wells is triggering earthquakes.

The area northwest of Fort Worth experienced [more than 30 quakes in about a three-month span.](#)

"There's ample studies that show these wells do cause earthquakes or are the main culprits causing earthquakes," said [Reno](#) Mayor [Lynda Stokes](#). "Give residents the benefit of the doubt. Shut these wells down, these wells that are in question, and find a safer way to do this."

She went on to say that "industry and greed" shouldn't be put in favor of safety and well-being and these earthquakes don't care what party you belong to.

The Texas Oil & Gas Association released a statement Monday morning saying the recent seismic activity warrants robust investigation.

The industry has formed a joint work group to address seismic activity and is taking proactive steps to mitigate risk related to seismic activity.

The group is developing new standards for disposal wells.

Azle Mayor [Alan Brundrett](#) said the schools in the area conduct earthquake drills, something they never did before.

He said Texas leads the way in oil and gas and it's time for the state to lead again.

"Today we come to you for help. It's time to lead again," Brundrett said. "It's time to step up and confirm once and for all if disposal wells are causing these quakes and determine why."

[Brian Stump](#), a seismologist with Southern Methodist University, said there had been one seismic event prior to Oct. 31, 2008. Since then, more than 70 events have been recorded between magnitude 2 to 3.5.

That said, it's very hard to determine the migration of fluids injected into disposal wells and how they might interact. Even if the epicenter is near an injection well, that doesn't mean that's the cause, he said.

"This is a problem that's going to take a number of different people to figure out," Stump said.